

Match Report - Sunday 24th January

Boys Under 16 Wessex Cup

Woking 4 Andover 1

A great performance in the Wessex Cup against Andover today. A slightly shaky first 5 minutes with some nasty moments in our own D but we managed to keep the ball out of our net mainly due to the man in pads, Alex had by far his busiest spell of the game keeping everything that was fired at him the right side of the line and eventually kicking clear allowing the team to regroup and start playing hockey again. The game was fairly even for the next 20 minutes with both teams making good breaks but still no score. Then at the 25 minute mark Woking were awarded the first short corner which was injected and stopped beautifully, then slipped right to Ronak who powered it towards the far post where Jack was waiting to deflect it in. The rest of the half remained goalless so we started the half time talk at 1-0 up.

We all agreed that 1-0 was not enough and that Andover could easily score a couple, we needed to move the ball out of defence a bit quicker and use the width to enable play through midfield, we also noted we needed to close down the two Andover midfielders who were controlling a lot of the game. We then went out and immediately dominated the second half, Giles powering in our 2nd goal only 4 minutes into the half and Tim Downes belting home a second 6 minutes later, this goal was particularly impressive as it started from a 16 at our end and was moved clinically down the pitch before Tim put it away. We proceeded to take shot after shot at goal but were kept out by their keeper and an outstanding defender who stopped the ball on the line more than twice, once at shoulder height. Alexi scored our final goal as he ran left to right across top D, piled on the gas and slipped it past the keeper just above the knee (hardest place to stop one, so they tell me). Andover managed to claw back a goal but we never really let them back in the game which finished 4-1.

Giles had a fantastic game playing a top diamond position, running past many a defender and supplying ample goal scoring opportunities, tracking back and recovering possession and of course not forgetting his goal and many other cracking shots that were only kept out by an agile keeper. Everyone played extremely well today and teamwork was phenomenal, perhaps a couple of words about each player might be in order.

Alex - a fantastic start which I believe changed the mood of the game.

Alexi - outstanding pace and of course a goal.

Fraser - a good spell up front and a great attacking performance at right back.

Harry B - marked his forward almost completely out of the game.

Harry S - skilful calm control in the centre.

Jack - very strong at right Mid, superb runs down the line and delivery in to the D.

Joe C - got us out of a few scrapes when we pushed up a little too far.

Joe L - good runs and control, linking well with Matt down the left.

Matt - initiated multiple strong attacks from left back, pushing up beautifully.

Ronak - solid and supportive as usual at sweeper (plus a top end choice giving us more time with the setting sun behind)

Tim - Speed strength and a goal, very solid (hope the knee is OK).
Will - control and feed, excellent combination with Jack.

I would particularly like to thank the Surrey boys who trained for county in the morning and still turned up to play for club in the afternoon, thanks guys.